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Serial No. 09/345,659

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) The method for automatically measuring, monitoring, and switching signals for audio satellite broadcasts of program content in AC-3 standard format to be transmitted as AES-3 signal bit streams, said audio satellite broadcasts containing meta data, variable dependent upon said program content comprises:

determining a predetermined count at which each packet in the AES-3 bit stream is to arrive, disabling a response to receipt of the packet to avoid outputting the data in the packet if it is received before said predetermined count has lapsed from receiving the start of a packet, in an AES-3 signal bit stream generated by an original source of said program content for delivery to program content receivers by a direct broadcast satellite system, said direct broadcast satellite system having an uplink system, said uplink system operable to multiplex, modulate, encode and add conditional access information to said AES-3 bit stream;

detecting if disruption occurs while packet is being received, by said uplink system;

accepting the packet of AC-3 information for enabling output after a predetermined time period plus the predetermined count from which the last packet started, if a disruption has been detected, and

determining whether said last packet comes within 10 milliseconds after an AC-3 packet was predicted to have arrived, and accepting said last packet as a trigger to provide a valid output in response to said detection.

2. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said count is a time count.

3. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said count is a word count.

4. (Canceled)

Serial No. 09/345,659

PD-990066

5. (Previously Presented) The invention as defined in claim 1 and further comprising wherein if another packet comes within a time period greater than 10 milliseconds but less than the predetermined number of milliseconds between packets, and preventing output by refusing to accept the packet, received in said interval between N and X for enabling output.

6. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling the status of channel status bits in multiple data streams, said multiple data streams of satellite broadcast communications operable to provide video, uncompressed stereo digital data in a first language and uncompressed stereo digital data in a least a second language wherein said video, uncompressed stereo digital data in a first language and uncompressed stereo digital data in at least a second language is program content comprises:

establishing agreement between the channel status bit buried in an AC-3 packet and the channel status bit buried within the MPEG-2 PES header structure, and

regenerating the channel status bits of the AES-3 stream continuing in the IRD for output of AC-3 to feed an external AC-3 decoder so that the channel status bits comply with the bits in the AC-3 data stream which also agrees with the serial data stream between the IRD and the decoder.

7. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 6 wherein said establishing agreement comprises parsing the AC-3 bit stream, determining the channel bit status, setting the channel bit status in MPEG-2 PES header, and generating MPEG-2 PES header in an encoder.

8. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 7 wherein said establishing agreement comprises setting the AC-3 audio stream channel status bit to be on, and recalculating the CRC bit in response to changing the channel status bit in the AC-3 audio stream.

9. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 8 wherein said setting comprises an operator manually setting said channel status bit.

Serial No. 09/345,659

PD-990066

10. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 8 which said setting comprises automatically setting said channel status bit.

11. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 6 wherein said channel status bit is a copyright status bit.

12. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 8 wherein said establishing agreement comprises setting the AC-3 audio stream channel bit to be off, and recalculating the CRC bit in response to changing the copyright bit status in the AC-3 audio stream.

13. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 12 wherein said setting comprises an operator manually setting said copyright bit.

14. (Original) The invention as defined in claim 12 which said setting comprises automatically setting said copyright bit.

15.-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) An uplink processor transmitting AC-3 audio streams together with video transmissions as encoded signal bit streams, the uplink processor incorporated within a direct satellite broadcast system, comprising:

An extractor that separates a plurality of AES-3 channels from a signal generated by a source of program content, said audio channels each including at least one audio signal having one of a plurality of encoded formats, said encoded formats for the plurality of AES-3 channels together defining one of a plurality of possible playback formats;

A plurality of audio encoders corresponding to possible encoded formats;

A switch logic input automatically sensing ~~a plurality of audio signal encoded formats in the playback format from the AES-3 channels~~ and redirecting audio signals in accordance with the sensed playback format to the corresponding encoders to process said ~~sensed audio signal encoded~~ formats, said corresponding encoders operable to output data in the form of digital transport packets; and

Serial No. 09/345,659

PD-990066

A multiplexer, wherein said multiplexer combines said output data with conditional access data, and program data into the encoded signal bit stream, which is uplinked to a satellite in the direct satellite broadcast system.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for combining AC-3 audio and video transmissions as encoded signal bit streams in a direct satellite broadcast system with an uplink processor having an encoder for encoding a plurality of selectable audio signal formats, said method comprising:

separating a plurality of AES-3 channels from a signal generated by a source of program content, said audio channels each including at least one audio signal having one of a plurality of encoded formats, said encoded formats for the plurality of AES-3 channels together defining one of a plurality of possible playback formats;

sensing each of a plurality of audio signals with encoded formats in the playback format from the AES-3 channels;

redirecting each sensed audio signal in accordance with the sensed playback format of said plurality of audio signal encoded formats to a corresponding an encoder corresponding to the signal's encoded format;

outputting data from each corresponding encoder in the form of digital transport packets;

multiplexing the transport packets with conditional access data and program data into the encoded signal bit stream; and

uplinking the encoded signal bit stream to a satellite in the direct satellite broadcast system.

34. (New) The invention as defined in claim 32, wherein said switch logic input senses the encoded format of one audio signal in one said audio channel to sense the playback format.

35. (New) The invention as defined in claim 34, wherein said switch logic input senses whether the one audio signal is compressed or uncompressed.

Serial No. 09/345,659

PD-990066

36. (New) The invention as defined in claim 32, wherein the playback format of the signal varies.

37. (New) The invention as defined in claim 32, wherein the signal includes first and second AES channels, in a first playback mode said first AES channel includes a first uncompressed stereo audio signal for a first piece of content and said second AES channel includes a second uncompressed stereo audio signal for a second piece of content, and in a second playback mode said first AES channel includes a first compressed stereo audio signal for the first piece of content and a second compressed stereo audio signal for the second piece of content and said second AES channel includes a first compressed multichannel audio signal for the first piece of content.

38. (New) The invention as defined in claim 33, wherein the signal includes first and second AES channels, in a first playback mode said first AES channel includes a first uncompressed stereo audio signal for a first piece of content and said second AES channel includes a second uncompressed stereo audio signal for a second piece of content, and in a second playback mode said first AES channel includes a first compressed stereo audio signal for the first piece of content and a second compressed stereo audio signal for the second piece of content and said second AES channel includes a first compressed multichannel audio signal for the first piece of content.

39. (New) The invention as defined in claim 38, wherein the step of sensing the playback format comprises sensing the encoded format of the first AES channel.

40. (New) The invention as defined in claim 39, wherein the step of sensing the playback format comprises sensing whether the one audio signal in the first AES channel is compressed or uncompressed.

41. (New) The invention as defined in claim 38, wherein the playback format of the signal varies between said first and second playback modes.